

**SHAZAM**



ADVENTURES OF

# Captain Marvel

A Republic Serial  
in 12 Chapters



CLIFFHANGER  
ENDING

and ESCAPE  
PICTORIAL



## CAST

### FEATURING

Captain Marvel.....Tom Tyler  
 Billy Batson.....Frank Coghlan, Jr.  
 Whitey.....William Benedict  
 Betty Wallace.....Louise Currie  
 The Scorpion.....?  
 John Malcolm.....Robert Strange  
 Prof. Luther Bentley.....Harry Worth  
 Henry Carlyle.....Bryant Washburn  
 Tal Chotali.....John Davidson  
 Dr. Stephen Lang.....George Pembroke  
 Dwight Fisher.....Peter George Lynn

### WITH

Rahman Bar.....Reed Hadley  
 James Howell.....Jack Mulhall  
 Barnett.....Kenneth Duncan  
 Shazam.....Nigel de Brulier  
 Cowan.....John Bagni  
 Martin.....Carleton Young  
 Major Rawley.....Leland Hodgson  
 Owens.....Stanley Price  
 Akbar.....Ernest Sarracino  
 Chan Lal.....Tetsu Komai

### AND

Native 1.....Augie Gomez  
 Native 2.....Al Taylor  
 Cavalry Lieutenant.....Eddie Dew  
 Sentry.....Carl Zwolsman  
 Radio Sergeant.....Marten Lamont  
 Colonel Hudson.....Major Sam Harris  
 Native 3.....Curley Dresden  
 Lab Heavy 1, Curio Heavy 1....Loren Riebe  
 Lab Heavy 2.....Fenton Taylor  
 Brandon.....Jerry Jerome  
 Curio Heavy 2.....James Fawcett  
 Carter.....Francis Sayles  
 Hawks.....Kenneth Terrell  
 Pete.....Bud Geary  
 Gus.....Frank Marlowe  
 Lefty.....Lynton Brent  
 Benson.....Wilson Bengé  
 Steve.....Frank Wayne  
 Captain Dodge.....Edward Cassidy  
 Carlson.....Chuck Morrison  
 First Seaman.....Ted Mapes  
 Native Chief.....Al Kikume  
 Ali.....Paul Lopez  
 Hamid.....Armand Cortes  
 Scorpion's Voice.....Gerald Mohr  
 Others: Dave Sharpe, Earl Bunn, George  
 Suzanne.

## FILE NOTES

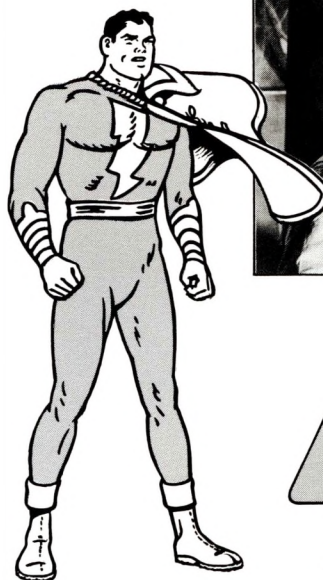
Republic Serial No. 21—in 12 chapters.  
 Production No. 1098

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Classified and passed by the National Board of Review  
 Material from WHIZ Comics, copyright 1940 and  
 1941, Fawcett Publications, Inc.

Filming started.....December 23, 1940  
 Filming ended.....January 30, 1941  
 Total days to film.....39  
 National Release Date.....March 28, 1941  
 16mm footage [live].....7,772 feet  
 Total running time.....215:57  
 Chapter editing completed dates...[all 1941]  
 1 [2-17], 2 [2-24], 3 [2-29], 4 [3-10],  
 5 [3-17], 6 [3-24], 7 [3-31], 8 [4- 7],  
 9 [4-14], 10 [4-18], 11 [4-28], 12 [5- 5].  
 MPPDA Approved Certificates...6909-6913,  
 6919-6921, 6938-6941.

Music credited to.....Cy Feuer  
 Compositions used by: Mort Glickman  
 [10], Ross Di Maggio [10], Cy Feuer [3],  
 William Lava [2].



## ADVENTURES OF

# Captain Marvel

Lauded as one of the finest serials ever produced, ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL is the closest to perfection yet achieved in adapting a fantasy character of this nature to a live-action format. Filmed in lieu of SUPERMAN, which was scratched from Republic's production schedule in August of 1940, C. C. Beck's creation was little tampered with in the transition. Tom Tyler, the perfect physical image of a superhero, imbued his somewhat oafish pen-and-ink counterpart with more depth and realism, and moderation in use of his keen powers was not one of his better assets. Brooking no interference from the opposition, he was not averse to machine-gunning a trio of terrified natives or hurling a heavy from a bridge or off a high building. And his always unfinished line, "Talk—or I'll . . .", certain to be delivered to some hapless victim in almost every episode, was calculated to unsettle even the most black-hearted. Frank Coghlan, Jr.'s portrayal of the naive Billy Batson, while somewhat cloying by today's standards, is nonetheless quite faithful to both the period and the comic interpretation. He was employed, as in the comic books, by a radio station, although the screen version did not overemphasize this point nor were the call letters WHIZ ever mentioned. Perhaps the finest incarnation of any cartoon character ever attempted was that of the ageless wizard who bestows the mantle of Captain Marvel upon Billy, Shazam [an acronym for Solomon's wisdom, Hercules' strength, Atlas' stamina, Zeus' power, Achilles' courage and Mercury's speed]. With his long, white flowing beard and robes and sepulchral voice, Nigel de Brulier looked for all the world as though he had at that moment stepped directly from a panel drawing.

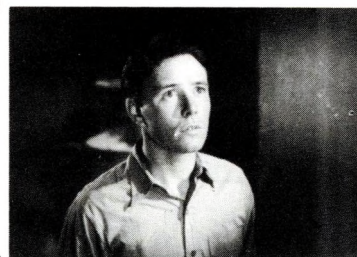
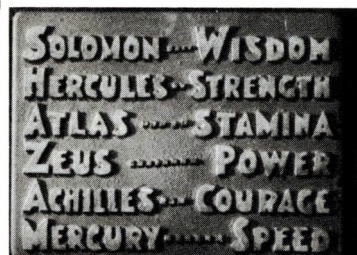
With Shazam, however, the screenplay made its greatest departure. In the comics, Shazam was accidentally killed after ordaining Billy with perpetual powers to combat the forces of evil while, in the film, the magician lived on despite the fact that Billy's pleomorphism began and ended within the twelve-chapter framework. An unusual turnabout presented itself in the form of Whitey [initially named Murphy but changed during production], played by Billy Benedict. Originally conceived as a screen companion to Billy, Whitey later found his way into the comic books, commencing with an issue that also featured John Malcolm in a one-shot appearance based on another expedition undertaking. The script, while based on Republic's oft-used red herring theme, was probably the best of this genre. Special mention should be given to Peter George Lynn and John Davidson for their superlatively sinister leers which assuredly must have



thrown more than one theater-seat detective novice off the track trying to guess the Scorpion's real identity. The teamwork between directors William Witney and John English and film editors Edward Todd and William Thompson was never more evident than in this chapterplay, particularly in the numerable action-matching sequences. But highest kudos for a film of this type must, by its very nature, go to the special effects and stunt-work. It is a testament to Dave Sharpe's skill that he emerged unscathed from his daring feats performed in Tom Tyler's stead, especially his headlong dives for the take-offs and steep vertical drops for the landings. A particularly breath-catching moment occurs in the first episode when Sharpe leaps head first, arms outstretched toward solid ground some twenty feet below, in a demonstration of precision tumbling artistry seldom seen.

While most viewers have become acclimated to seeing a human figure such as Captain Marvel fly through the air by the expedient method of suspending an actor on a wire-hung breast-plate in front of a rear projection screen, the exact opposite was true in ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL. Bud Thackery's process shots were, for the most part, relegated as background for the main and end titles. The bulk of the flight scenes were accomplished with the use of a highly-effective Captain Marvel dummy created by Howard Lydecker and his peerless special effects staff. The dummy was designed slightly out of proportion—seven feet from head to toe, excluding the length of the arms—to give an overwhelming illusion. It was constructed from papier-mache to keep weight [15 pounds] at a minimum and was actually clothed in a combination of cotton jersey and ultra-light China silk. Pulleys concealed in each shoulder blade and leg calf allowed it to glide smoothly along the pair of fine piano wires. In the memorable take-off scene at the beginning of Chapter Five [also used behind the director's credits] when the dummy flies from street level to the roof of the Biltmore Hotel garage in downtown Los Angeles, a third wire was attached to the head and counterweighted out of camera range. When the weight was released, the dummy was drawn effectively across the building's facade. The dummy's prototype was one built of Superman, which was scrapped along with plans to produce that photoplay.

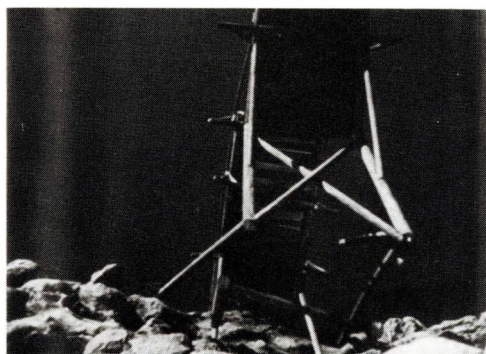
**Production Notes . . .** assistant directors to William Witney and John English were Louis Germonprez and R. G. "Bud" Springsteen . . . Ross Di Maggio and Mort Glickman each composed 10 of the musical selections which were augmented by three from Cy Feuer and two from William Lava. Di Maggio, who created the main and forward titles, captioned seven of his background themes after the actual chapter headings [one, two, five, eight, nine, 10 and 11] and Glickman followed suit, filling in the remaining five gaps. Two pieces by Feuer and one by Lava were lifted directly from their works in DRUMS OF FU MANCHU, and other music from MYSTERIOUS DOCTOR SATAN also was used . . . stock footage of the massed natives used in the first and last episodes [also extensively utilized in FU MANCHU] was gleaned from a 1938 Republic feature, STORM OVER BENGAL. In addition, library clips from SOS COAST GUARD made up the cliffhanger sequences in Chapters Five and 10 as did an appropriation from MYSTERIOUS DOCTOR SATAN for Chapter Seven . . . additional exterior segments were filmed at Chatsworth and Lake Sherwood, California . . . the Scorpion's suavely menacing voice was overdubbed by the popular character actor Gerald Mohr . . . retitled RETURN OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, the serial was re-released theatrically on April 15, 1953.





Despite the protection of a cavalry contingent, the Malcolm Expedition's compound in the Valley of Tombs is besieged by hostile natives until Tal Chotali, a native scientist, ventures out under a flag of truce to reprove the tribal leader, Rahman Bar, for not adhering to the true legend which states that Scorpio, an inactive volcano, will erupt if desecration occurs. Rahman Bar sullenly withdraws his men and John Malcolm, despite stern warnings of a curse, leads his fellow archaeologists into the tomb of the Scorpion. Once an inner tomb is located, Billy Batson, the assistant radio operator, volunteers to remove artifacts from another passage since he does not wish to participate in violating a sacred place. Malcolm, Professor Luther Bentley, Dwight Fisher and Dr. Stephen Lang crawl through a small aperture where they discover a metallic Golden Scorpion resting on a dais. They move an arrangement of lenses mounted in the legs of the mechanical insect resulting in a blinding explosion and violent quaking as a large stone slab falls, sealing the tomb. In another passage, Billy reacts to the tremor, then curiously enters a heretofore hidden chamber when a secret door squeaks open. A vertical sarcophagus parts and Shazam, a centuries-old protector of the Scorpion dynasty, steps out and confers the powers of Captain Marvel on Billy to protect innocent people from any evil use of the Golden Scorpion. Billy repeats Shazam's name and, in a thundering cloud of smoke, becomes the mighty Captain Marvel. He deftly raises the heavy slab imprisoning Malcolm and the others, then reverts to Billy and helps them outside. Tal Chotali translates a scroll which claims that the Scorpion can transmute any substance to pure gold and all skepticism is erased with a telling demonstration using ordinary stones. The five scientists accept James Howell's suggestion to distribute the lenses among them, the scroll to Billy and the body unit to himself so no one man can use the device's power without the consent of all. That night, Natives 1 and 2 are catapulted from firm saplings over the stockade wall. They steal into Howell's tent, slug and gag Billy and are about to exit with the scroll and figurine when Howell returns, is pushed against the canvas and falls with a dagger protruding from his back as the black-cloaked figure of the Scorpion appears. Howell's murder, compounded by the cavalry lieutenant's report that a sentry has been knifed, culminates in a distress call to the Fort Mooltan radio sergeant. Colonel Hudson dispatches Major Rawley's troop, but they are ambushed in the hills by native cadres, incited when Scorpio flares to life. Also endangered by the onslaught, Malcolm, Bentley, Fisher, Lang, Henry Carlyle and Tal Chotali pack into one station wagon followed by Betty Wallace and Whitey in another as Rahman Bar, noting their escape attempt, sends Native 3 and two helpers to dynamite the gorge bridge. Billy becomes Captain Marvel and is trapped in an Arab horse stampede as the scientists drive safely across the span. Betty and Whitey, however, are trapped on the center of the bridge in their vehicle as the explosives discharge, snapping the wooden supports and plunging them to the depths below.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



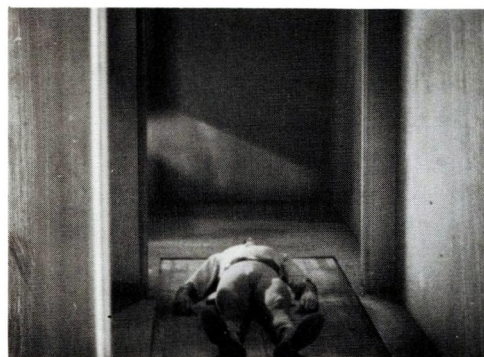


## THE ESCAPE



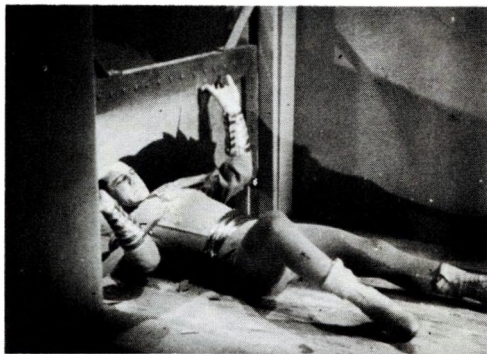
Captain Marvel flies from the path of the onrushing hoofs and splashes into the water where the station wagon has fallen, ripping off the roof and carrying Betty and Whitey ashore. Returning to the United States, Billy resumes his radio station job and reports on a newscast that the scientists are thankful to be out of reach of the Scorpion. His prophecy proves incorrect, however, as the hooded nemesis displays the golden atom smasher to his right-hand man, Barnett, explaining that all the lenses must be secured before the unit can be made completely functional. Agreeing with Barnett's intimation that he is one of the Malcolm Expedition members, the Scorpion designates Carlyle's lens as the first point of attack. On his way to a meeting at Malcolm's home, Carlyle is abducted when Cowan transfers to his convertible from Barnett's sedan and directs him to an electrical laboratory. Carlyle's uncooperative attitude changes when Barnett graphically demonstrates a fiendish apparatus. A chair, hurled amid a shower of sparks between two rows of powerful electric eyes, is carried down a narrow passage on a conveyor belt where it is smashed to pieces by a heavy guillotine blade. Malcolm reads Carlyle's pleading note to the scientific group and all agree Betty should deliver the lens according to instructions. That night, after depositing a box on the Elm Street bridge, she drives a short distance, then Billy and Whitey jump out. Owens surprises them as they watch Cowan retrieve the lens, but Billy makes a fast move, starting a fight. Whitey holds his own as Billy and a heavy crash through a bridge railing onto a dry river bed. The thug lies senseless as Billy becomes Captain Marvel and leaps back to the bridge. Cowan hurriedly pulls away but Captain Marvel lands on the car top and rides to the laboratory. When Barnett finds the lens box empty, he orders Carlyle thrown into the infernal machine just as Captain Marvel bursts through a window. Unaffected by the fusillade, he flings Lab Heavies 1 and 2 aside and advances toward Barnett, who swings a chair at him. Caught off balance, Captain Marvel stumbles into the arcing light beams and is drawn stunned along the belt under the guillotine, which falls directly on him.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



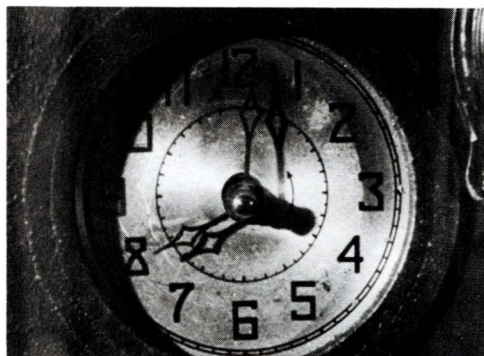


## THE ESCAPE



The blade crumbles against Captain Marvel's chest as Carlyle takes a bullet from Barnett's gun. The heavies make a rapid exit but Captain Marvel tosses Lab Heavy 1 against the door, battering it down. He is about to collar the others when Carlyle's moaning attracts his attention, but the scientist dies before he can reveal the Scorpion's identity. Billy returns to the Malcolm residence where he finds Betty preparing to leave for Carlyle's Oak Mountain lodge to get his hidden lens. Unable to immediately accompany her on this possibly dangerous foray, he tells her to use his car which is equipped with a two-way radio. The girl departs and Billy's call to Whitey to have him follow Betty as an additional precaution is overheard by an eavesdropper at the library door. Complying with a detour sign, Betty swings into a narrow alley, closely followed by a large truck, and is hemmed in by it and a parked moving van. Whitey, unable to see, stops behind the second truck and honks impatiently as Cowan forces Betty to drive up the open tailgate. The vehicles finally move onto the highway and Whitey passes the van, searching in bewilderment for Billy's car. While Cowan ransacks her purse for Carlyle's safe combination, Betty turns on the dashboard radio with her knee and provides enough vocal clues for Billy, listening at the radio station, who evinces his superhuman change and flies off in pursuit. Betty is tied to the steering wheel of Billy's car in the rear compartment of the vehicle and gassed as Captain Marvel, seeing Cowan and Martin transfer from the speeding truck to Owens' convertible, flies after and overtakes the runaway van. He brakes it to a stop, frees Betty and changes to Billy, telling her that he will beat the Scorpion's men to Carlyle's lens by taking his private plane. Returning to Malcolm's home, Betty recapitulates Billy's plan to the scientists, who then excuse themselves for the night. She prepares to leave but notices a telephone receiver off the hook and, about to recradle it, she is shocked to hear the Scorpion issuing orders to Brandon to install an atmospheric exploder in Billy's plane set for one minute past eight. Betty calls Whitey, who attempts to reach Billy by short wave, but Brandon has cut the airplane radio wires. Oblivious to his danger, Billy flies on and the craft blows up in midair.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



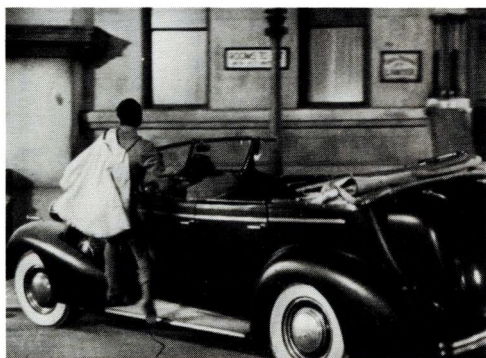
Billy idly glimpses the broken radio receiver wires, twists them together and reacts to Whitey's frantic warning by changing to Captain Marvel and diving from the plane before it is consumed. With Carlyle's lens secured, the Scorpion outlines a plan to Barnett for getting rid of the troublesome Billy Batson. Later, when Tal Chotali displays a miniature scorpion found in Carlyle's study and Lang identifies it as part of Chan Lal's collection, Billy volunteers to investigate the curio dealer. He accompanies Betty, who is on her way to check out the moving van license number, but a second-floor flower box is dropped toward them outside as they leave. Billy shoves her aside as the heavy metal container crashes on the sidewalk and they duck out of sight as Fisher furtively enters his car and drives away. Vowing to keep closer watch on the scientist, Billy continues to Chan Lal's shop and is invited by the Oriental into the basement for an inspection of his collection. He depresses a push button and Billy, leading the descent, strikes a trick step and slides hard to the cellar floor where he is slugged by Cowan and Curio Heavies 1 and 2, who lock him in the vault. At the N Street Garage, Betty, told by Carter that his rented van was stolen, is about to depart when she spots Cowan drive in. When he picks up Carter and drives to the top floor of the multi-level parking decks, Betty warily follows in a service elevator and sees them back the car behind a secret sliding door. She attempts to use a wall phone but Cowan simultaneously lifts an extension and learns of her presence. He and his cronies roar down the circular ramp in their convertible and apprehend Betty as she emerges from the elevator. At Chan Lal's, Barnett receives word of Betty's capture and orders her taken care of as Billy becomes Captain Marvel, kicks down the vault door and enters the office. He flings the two heavies aside and hefts Barnett above his head, threatening to drop him on a bed of nails unless told where the girl is being held. Barnett relents and Captain Marvel takes to the air as Betty impulsively jumps in her captors' car, driving it through the panel. But the falling debris strikes her unconscious and the vehicle careens down the ramps and onto the street, heading directly for a building.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



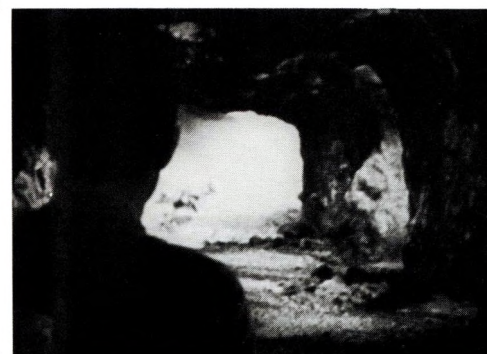


## THE ESCAPE



Captain Marvel lands in front of the garage and responds to Betty's dilemma by leaping on the running board and swerving the car to a halt. She points to the garage roof and he flies upward as Cowan, Carter and Owens prepare a trap. They unleash a suspended automobile engine as Captain Marvel walks underneath but he effortlessly catches the motor and hurls it at a packing case behind which Cowan is hiding. Owens watches in horror as Carter is thrown off the eight-story building, then tries to escape in the elevator but Marvel grasps the cables and pulls the car back up. Fearfully insisting he does not know who the Scorpion is, Owens' admission that he might be able to recognize his leader's voice causes him to be taken to Malcolm's home. Billy advances his theory to Malcolm, Bentley, Fisher, Lang and Tal Chotali that he suspects one of them is the Scorpion and their heated denials permits each voice to be heard in turn. When Owens fails to make an identification, the scientists stalk from the room, one of them slipping a note to the criminal. Discouraged, Billy prepares to phone the police, giving Owens a chance to feign cooperation. Having scanned the missive, he offers to lead Billy to the Scorpion's hideout in the old Harrison mine where, at that moment, the arachnid-decorated figure approves the test of a set of trap doors opening into a pit studded with sharp stakes. He replies to Barnett's query about the possibility of Captain Marvel making an appearance by indicating the Golden Scorpion which, despite its incomplete lens array, can generate sufficient power to turn the inside of the mountain into molten rock. Billy marches Owens through the tunnel at gunpoint but, as they walk inside a cavern occupied by the Scorpion, the traps part beneath them. Owens is impaled screaming on the spikes while Billy maintains a handhold on the shaft rim long enough to accomplish his superhuman transfiguration. Captain Marvel bounds from the opening toward his nemesis, seated behind a table, and pulls off his hood, revealing a speaker and microphone. Outside, Barnett trains the lenses on the mine entrance, which begins to melt, and Captain Marvel, following the speaker wires, is forced back to the chamber as an oozing river of steaming lava rolls inexorably upon him.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



Captain Marvel springs up to an overhead opening as the Scorpion, gazing satisfactorily at the sealed tunnel mouth, summons Barnett, Cowan and Martin back to his car. Betty receives a mysterious call and the scientists group around a short wave set while Whitey tunes in the prescribed band. They listen in disbelief to the Scorpion, actually a recording being played by Barnett, who informs them that he has attained all the lenses but one. In a quandry over the likelihood that each of their hiding places has been discovered, the men go their separate ways. Billy, apprised of this turn of events, immediately sees through the clever ruse and sends Whitey to warn Fisher while he heads for Bentley's apartment. At home, Bentley whirls in dismay as Cowan and Martin enter through a window and slug him. Finding Bentley's lens still resting in a hollowed-out book, they are about to flee when Hawks, the butler, attacks them. He is beaten down as Billy, worried at the lack of response to his knocks, becomes Captain Marvel and knocks the door from its hinges. Learning from Hawks the lens was taken, he flies from the window, landing on a nearby rooftop where he spots Cowan and Martin on the street below. He drops to the sidewalk, cracks their heads together and, after returning the lens to Hawks for safekeeping, takes off for Fisher's residence. Lightning streaks the nighttime sky as Fisher cedes to the Scorpion's demands, stepping to a drapery-concealed knife switch. A wall panel slides open, unveiling the lens, but the Scorpion is startled as his henchman, reaching in to appropriate it, is felled in a gush of deadly electricity. Fisher is commanded to extract the component when Whitey smashes a window, levels his gun and clambers inside. The Scorpion edges against a light switch, snapping it off as the darkened room becomes illuminated with flashes of gunfire. Fisher is killed in the battle and the interloper sneaks around Whitey, bringing his gun butt down on the lad's head just before Captain Marvel alights on the grounds and forcibly enters the house. He examines the strewn bodies, then extends a hand toward the wall aperture as the Scorpion, lurking behind the drapes, closes the contacts. A violent surge of current strikes Captain Marvel, who writhes and falls inert on the floor.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



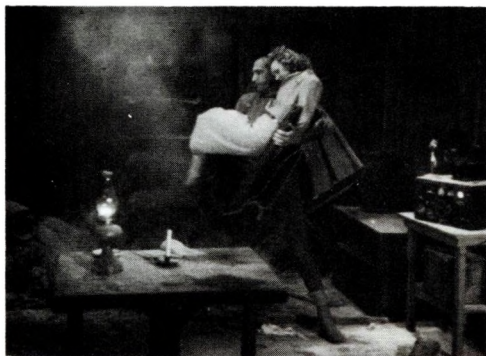
The Scorpion absconds with Fisher's lens as Captain Marvel revives, telling Whitey that the scientists must take drastic action to protect their remaining lenses. Returning from a meeting at Malcolm's home, the Scorpion relates to Barnett that, since Betty's information was responsible for Captain Marvel's appearance at the Fisher estate, he can use her to lure Marvel into a trap. Complying with a telephoned request from Billy's radio station to deliver his broadcast notes, Betty cruises along an open road as Cowan reaches from the trunk and shoots out a tire. He thrusts her into another car driven by two heavies while Billy, learning of the deceptive call from Whitey, pursues. Betty makes a sudden move, switching off the ignition and palming the keys, pretending to throw them from the vehicle as it coasts to a stop. Billy, finding the girl's empty car, changes to Captain Marvel and swoops down on Cowan, backhanding him across the face until he yields that she has taken to the woods. After slugging Cowan, who shoots him in the back without results, Captain Marvel hurls another heavy from a cliff and flies toward a narrow dam where Betty is being menaced by the third crook. Inching backwards as he fires ineffectively at Captain Marvel, the thug loses his foothold and plunges to the depths below. Betty grows faint and Marvel carries her to the car, explaining that he can be reached through a designated wavelength. She drives away but Cowan, hanging on the running board, jumps up and takes over the wheel. Confronted by the Scorpion, Betty lunges for Martin's exposed revolver and gets off a point-blank shot that wounds the cowled menace in the hand. Reviling at this affront, he orders Barnett and Cowan to take her to a shack on the bombing range and install a radio. Billy is also abducted to insure success of the plan to ensnare Captain Marvel in a hopeless situation. Barnett and Cowan leave Billy bound and gagged on the floor and Betty tied to a chair as the bomber makes its first run, demolishing an adjacent shack. Betty works her way to a table and switches on the transmitter, calling for Captain Marvel as the plane makes another pass. The proximate explosion drops a ceiling beam, knocking her out, and Billy strains to free himself as the shack is destroyed.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



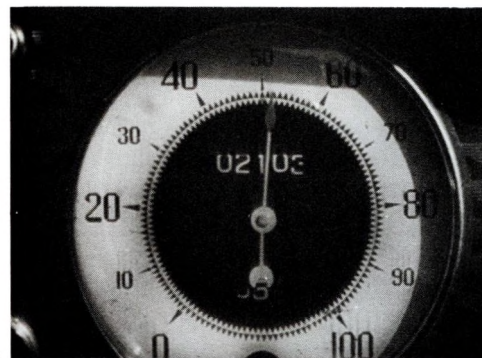
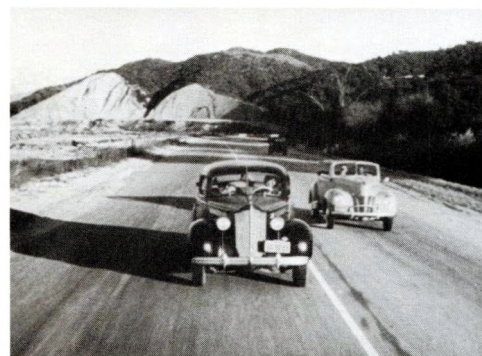


## THE ESCAPE



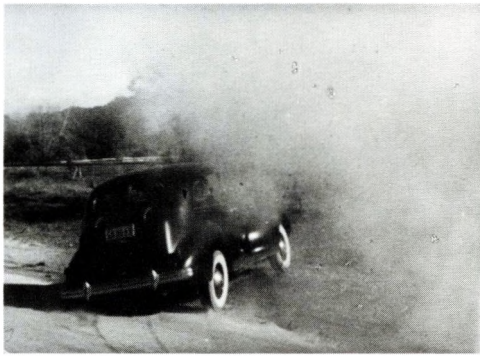
Billy slips the gag from his mouth in time to call Shazam's name and carry Betty from the doomed building. Another plan to kill Captain Marvel gone awry, the Scorpion decides to concentrate on completing the atom smasher and leaves Barnett with orders to finish off Batson while he attends a meeting at Malcolm's. Continuing his belief that the Scorpion is one of the expedition members, Billy puts Betty's information that she wounded their nemesis to good use by presenting the scientists with a document requiring each of their signatures. All of the men sign in turn until Lang, after a fumbling effort with his left hand, reveals his other bandaged wrist. Summoned from the room on a prearranged signal, Billy tells Betty to stall Lang while he dons the doctor's hat and coat to get past the estate guard preparatory to searching his house. Cowan and Barnett watch from some shrubbery as Lang's car pulls away, then they resume wiring Billy's convertible with a bomb set to detonate at fifty miles per hour. Fooling Pete, the guard, Billy drives into Lang's garage but is spotted by Gus and Lefty, who slug him and leave him to die in the carbon monoxide fumes emanating from the idling motor. They stare in disbelief, however, when Captain Marvel crashes through the garage door and advances on them, their barrage of bullets ricocheting off his chest. He hurls Lefty over a hedge and heaves Gus into a tree, then transforms his identity as Whitey approaches with Lang in Billy's car. Accused to his face of being the Scorpion, Lang proclaims his innocence and ushers the boys inside. Commenting on the chilly atmosphere, he gives a meaningful look at his butler, Benson, who descends to the basement and pours a vial of liquid into the heating system. Billy and Whitey soon fall asleep and Lang removes a pair of nose filters, telling Benson to look after Whitey. Fearing the Scorpion's men are closing in and will murder Billy if they find him on the premises, he places him in his car. Gus and Lefty come around as the vehicle moves down the driveway and they give chase in Billy's convertible, ignorant of the speed-controlled bomb. At Gus' urging, Lefty floors the accelerator and pulls alongside Lang's car. At that instant there is a roaring explosion and the air is filled with debris.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



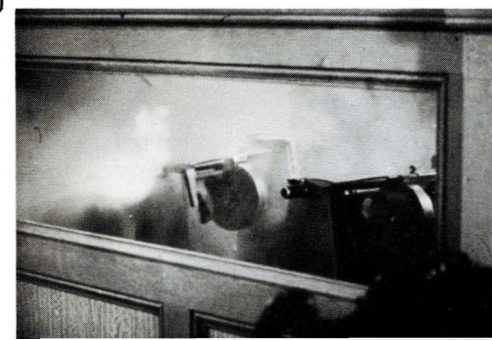
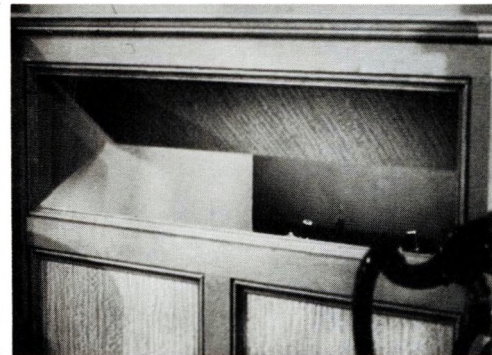


## THE ESCAPE



Gus and Lefty are blown to eternity but the concussion merely forces Lang's car off the road, disabling it. Alerted by Pete, Barnett and Martin happen along Mill Valley road as Lang unwittingly flags them down for assistance. They prod him into their sedan and throw Billy, who is still unconscious, in the back seat for a trip to the Scorpion's lair. Billy is dumped in the basement while Lang, after several tormenting moments in an iron maiden, discloses that his lens is hidden behind a painting-concealed wall safe at his home. When Martin steps out for water to revive his captive, Billy takes advantage of the solitudinous moment and becomes Captain Marvel. He fields several shots from the terrified hoodlum, then throws his gun against the wall. It discharges, killing Martin, and Captain Marvel rushes upstairs, but the Scorpion evades capture by retreating through a secret panel, using Lang as a shield. Captain Marvel breaks through the wall and finds his way along the underground tunnel maze as Lang calls Betty with the combination to his safe. He is about to warn her of a death trap when the Scorpion re-enters, shoots him and flees with the Golden Scorpion. Before expiring, Lang urges Captain Marvel to save Betty, whom he has dispatched for the lens. Instructed by Cowan to be on the lookout for intruders, Pete sees Betty unlocking the Lang estate gates and ducks into some brush. He aims a rifle in her direction but Captain Marvel dives upon him, punches him to the ground and greets Betty after once more becoming Billy Batson. The girl mentions Lang's ominous warning but Billy, assuming Pete was the threatening factor, reassures her and they walk toward the house. Meantime, Barnett, Cowan and Steve are busily working the safe combination unaware that their activities have opened an interconnected panel on the wall behind them, revealing a pair of machine guns. At the sound of Billy's voice, however, the heavies restore things to normalcy and quickly hide back of some floor-length drapes as he and Betty enter the alcove. Billy moves the picture aside and the automatic weapons again rise to a firing position, zeroing in on their targets as Betty reads the combination aloud. Billy twirls the dial to the final number, then a devastating hail of lead is unleashed.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



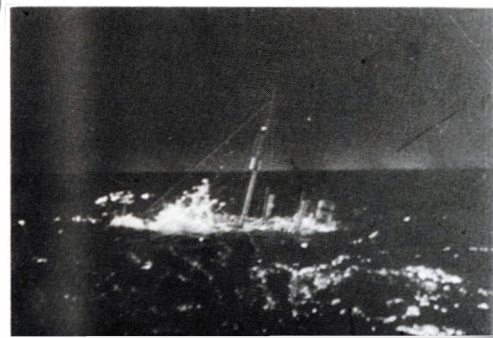


## THE ESCAPE



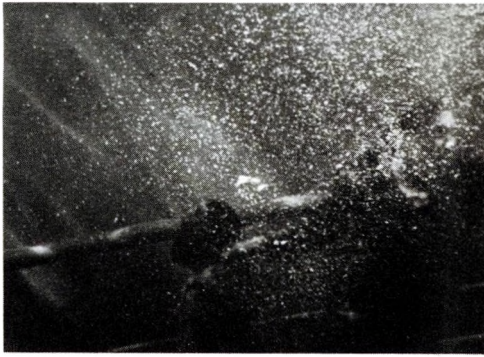
Barnett motions to Steve, who knocks out Billy and Betty and, as the manipulator of the safe handle, receives the bullets. Poring over a map showing where Lang's lens is actually hidden, Barnett and Cowan are surprised by Billy. Cowan makes a bid for freedom as Barnett, sent reeling backwards against a cabinet, is struck unconscious when a heavy statuette topples on his head. Billy runs to an outside balcony, assumes his alter ego and flies across the grounds, toppling Cowan. Confiscating the map and returning to the house as Billy, he finds Barnett has departed and accompanies Betty to Malcolm's home. Since it is obvious Lang left his lens in the Valley of Tombs, Malcolm has Betty book passage for everyone on the next steamship bound for Siam, then tears the map into equal parts, dividing it among himself, Billy, Betty, Tal Chotali and Bentley. Aboard the freighter Carfax caught in a typhoon off the Siamese coast, Malcolm paces the salon worrying that their foe may have beaten them to Bangkok by clipper as Captain Dodge, First Officer Carlson and the First Seaman labor relentlessly to keep the cargo lashed down. Suddenly, a lookout's voice rises above the squall alerting the crew to an imminent collision with a reef. As the ship steams onto the rocks, Carlson orders the passengers to don oilskins and life belts and assemble on deck. Unable to launch the lifeboats in the fierce gale, Captain Dodge vetoes Billy's alternate suggestion of the breeches buoy since there is no way to rig a shore line. Billy solves the problem by assuming his superhuman identity and flying the rope to shore. He pulls in Whitey, telling him to operate the haul line while he excuses himself on the pretext of obtaining firewood and reverts to Billy Batson. Betty, returning to her cabin for a forgotten item, is struck down by the Scorpion, who steals her purse believing it contains her segment of the map. Later, Captain Dodge takes a cursory look around the vacant rain-swept deck and signals with a lantern to be pulled ashore. The storm subsides and the men warm themselves around a fire as Billy, noting Betty's absence, is hurriedly drawn back to the ship. He finds her inert on the cabin floor when the fraying anchor cable parts and the foundering vessel slides rapidly beneath the waves.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



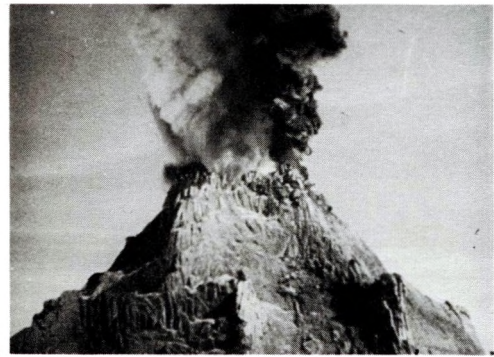


## THE ESCAPE



Pulling Betty through the torrent, Billy swims with her in tow to the awaiting shore party. She explains that the Scorpion's efforts went for naught since her map portion is pinned to her jacket in a waterproof envelope. Tal Chotali leads the group to Khandapur, where Billy is delegated to round up cars and equipment for the hinterland journey. That night, a falcon released by the Scorpion homes to a desolate cave carrying a message for Rahman Bar and the Native Chief to prepare for the alien whites' return. When the Chief laments that his men are few in number and will be reluctant to face the foreigners' guns, Rahman Bar allays his qualm with a plan to wipe them out with a surprise trap. The next day, Betty, Whitey and the scientists depart in an open touring car and Billy takes up the rear driving a supply-laden station wagon. Distracted by flashes of sunlight, Billy pulls off the road and, seeing Akbar signaling with a mirror, changes to Captain Marvel. He flies toward the native, bulldogging him from his galloping horse, and coerces him into revealing that Rahman Bar has blocked the canyon road preparatory to burying the infidels under a landslide. Ali reports Akbar's signal that the Malcolm party has entered the pass to Native 1 and Rahman Bar, who ignites a dynamite fuse. Captain Marvel lands next to the scientists as they chop at a huge tree barricading the road and urges them back to the car. He swiftly raises the tree, braces it with his back until Whitey drives past, then lets it fall and leaps into space as the entire cliff is blown up. Noting with disappointment the safe arrival of their enemies in the Valley of Tombs, Akbar and Ali inspire Rahman Bar with a whimsical desire for Scorpio, the now-dormant volcano, to become active, thus alerting all tribes to action. They explode the side of a mountain, diverting a river into the volcano, which begins a violent eruption, spewing fire and rocks. Outside the Scorpion's tomb, Billy and Tal Chotali recoil at the resultant earthquake while, inside, Betty, Whitey, Malcolm and Bentley recover Lang's lens from its hiding place. Before they can retreat, the earth tremors increase, cutting off the scientists in the outer tomb from Betty and Whitey, who are sealed in the inner tomb as it collapses to ruins.

## THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING





## THE ESCAPE



Whitey thrusts Betty beneath an archway, shielding them from the debris avalanche while Malcolm and Bentley ingress deeper into the tomb. Billy entreats Tal Chotali to reason with his countrymen for peace as the tribes assemble, then invokes Shazam's name and starts to dismantle the blockaded inner tomb entrance. Malcolm and Bentley locate a subterranean passage leading outside but, in the shadowy light concealing their features, one of them identifies himself as the Scorpion and truculently murders the other. In full regalia, the Scorpion reconnoiters the Malcolm camp and stares in amazement as Captain Marvel carries Betty from the tomb, then disappears in a puff of smoke from which Billy emerges. Tal Chotali and Hamid plead for moderation with the unruly tribesmen in Rahman Bar's cave when the Scorpion enters and orders them seized. Wishing to learn the secret of Billy's transformation, he bids Rahman Bar to capture Billy and his friends and bring them to the cave. After dispatching Betty and Whitey back to civilization, Billy re-enters the tomb in search of Malcolm and Bentley but is clouted from behind by Rahman Bar. Whitey momentarily eludes four brigands on horseback by jumping the touring car across a gorge but he and Betty are forced to surrender at a blocked section of road. Billy, Betty and Whitey are bound to stakes in the cave as the Scorpion, manipulating his completed atom smasher, provides a demonstration of its power to the awed natives. Hamid is shoved in front of the Golden Scorpion and instantly vanishes in a brilliant flash. Threatening to execute Betty next unless Billy confesses his secret, the Scorpion unwittingly orders his gag removed. Billy metamorphosizes, strikes down Rahman Bar and unmasks the Scorpion as Bentley. But Bentley suddenly withdraws a gun, grabs Betty as a hostage and shoots the attacking Akbar. He backs toward the exit but is annihilated when Rahman Bar surreptitiously focuses the Scorpion lenses on him. Captain Marvel hurls the device into a volcanic pool, then is replaced for the final time by Billy as Shazam's hollow voice rings out. Tal Chotali explains that Captain Marvel's services are no longer required now that the Scorpion's power has been brought to an end.

## THE MOMENTOUS FINALE







# ADVENTURES OF *Captain Marvel*

In a remote section of Siam, near the Burmese border, lies a desolate, volcanic land which has for centuries been taboo to white men -- The Valley of Tombs!

To this realm of mystery, jealously guarded by native tribes unconquered since the dawn of time, has come the Malcolm Archaeological Expedition to find the lost secret of the Scorpion Dynasty.

